



SECRET

CATEGORY "B" 3168
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MAY 7 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR BRIG. GEN. A. J. GOODPASTER
THE WHITE HOUSE

Subject: Courses of Action Regarding US-French Relations

At the Secretary's request, I am enclosing a copy of a memorandum to the Secretary from Mr. Merchant on the subject of US-French relations which the Secretary has approved as indicated. The Secretary has designated Mr. Murphy to coordinate the successive stages of action set forth in the memorandum.

Because the Secretary will not be able to discuss the matter with the President before his departure for Geneva, he would appreciate it if you would brief the President orally on the successive actions we contemplate vis-a-vis the French. Concerning the draft letter to President de Gaulle, the Secretary believes it will have to be revised further in light of developments which take place during the first phases of the proposed action program.

/S/ JOHN A. CALHOUN

John A. Calhoun
Director
Executive Secretariat

Enclosure:

Copy of S/S #3168, May 5, 1959.

S/S - RO

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A true and correct copy of original

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S/S-RO:RHMILLER:mj 5/7/59

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NVD 897224
BE 1-19-90

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PROPOSED LETTER TO GENERAL DE GAULLE

Dear General de Gaulle:

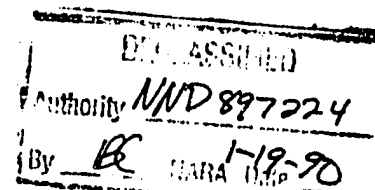
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The Secretary of State has reported to me on his conversation with Prime Minister Debre on May 1. I consider that I must express to you my grave concerns regarding the French Government's refusal to grant atomic storage rights for the nine US Air Force tactical air squadrons now stationed in France under NATO.

I appreciate the delicacy of this issue and your feelings that such storage rights might impinge on French national sovereignty. At the same time, I believe most strongly that the urgency of the present international situation requires that these military forces be equipped with the most modern weapons. It is surely essential that the defensive strength of the Western alliance be immediately fortified.

It is for this reason that I have decided to redeploy outside of France the squadrons in question. This is a grave and difficult decision, which I have undertaken with very great reluctance and regret after long deliberation. What particularly concerns me, however, is the unfortunate psychological impression that this action may create on the Western alliance at this critical juncture. I have, nonetheless, little choice.

His Excellency
General Charles de Gaulle,
President of the French Republic.



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Ever since your return to office, which I greatly welcomed, it has been my hope that a new and more meaningful partnership might be established between our two countries. It was in fact my impression that progress had been made along these lines. But it was also my hope that the two of us could work together toward the strengthening of NATO, which is the cardinal principle of U.S. foreign policy. I cannot help but express to you frankly my feeling that this hope has not been fulfilled. I more than anyone am anxious for a close US-French working relationship, but surely this can be attained without jeopardizing the Western alliance, with which United States and French security is so inextricably bound.

I know that you will give these matters, to which I attach utmost importance, your careful consideration. We are concerting closely our policies in preparation for the forthcoming negotiations with the Soviets. It is my devout hope that we may concert our actions on the military level which are essential to the successful realization of these objectives.

Please accept, General, the assurances of my highest esteem and best personal wishes.

Sincerely,

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By BC Date 1-18-90